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To: Honolulu City Council Committee on Budget
The Honorable Ernest Y. Martin, Chair

From: *Shayne Stambler*
3004 Kiele Ave.

Shayne808@earthlink.net

Committee Hearing: Wednesday, May 25, 2011
9 a.m.

Council Committee Meeting Room

Subject: Support for CB3, Relating to the real property tax exemption for historic residential real property

I am writing in support of CB 3, which adds clarity, transparency and improved enforcement of

the City's tax incentive program for preservation of historic homes.

The City's property tax exemption for historic properties helps to protect Hawaii's historic

resources. By developing clear, fair and effective standards and guidelines for enforcement of

the program, this bill will ensure that the public benefit is maintained.

The real property tax exemption program offers homeowners of registered historic residences

some relief and protection from the City's tax laws. Bill 3 would help the existing program by

adding clarity and improved enforcement of the conditions for receiving the tax exemption.

These include:

1. Definition and proof of visual access from a public way;
2. Definition, proof and communication of alternative visual visitation 12 days/year if the property is not visible from a public way;
3. Standards for maintenance, repair and condition;
4. Specifications for the historic plaque or sign; and
5. Standardizing submittal requirements, enforcement procedures and penalties for noncompliance.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of the protection of historic properties and

the perpetuation of our island sense of identity and place through a connection with the

rich diversity of our historic properties.

Respectfully, Shayne Stambler